

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

February 16, 2009

Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Legislators:

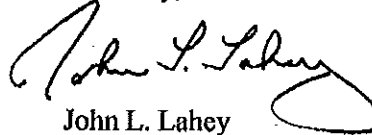
I write to encourage you to support any and all legislation that invests in the growth and development of Tweed New Haven Airport. This airport is a critical resource that is needed for the use of business and personal travel in the Greater New Haven region. Additionally, a vibrant airport would stimulate economic activity in the city and throughout the area which occurs in every prosperous economic hub in this nation and beyond.

On behalf of those serving in higher education, I support the efforts of the Regional Leadership Council which is instrumental in voicing the business community's strong support for Tweed. For higher education to continue prospering in this region, we require a reliable transportation system that includes convenient air service, free of long commutes and traffic congestion. Our colleges and universities are known for importing staff, faculty, students, parents, visitors and other guests on a regular basis. Each traveler brings a new revenue source into the region with every visit.

The promotion of Tweed is not a hindrance to the stability and growth of Bradley International Airport. Two active air services in the State of Connecticut are necessary for present and future economic growth. At the same time, Tweed would serve to relieve existing traffic along the New Haven to New York corridor by providing a viable alternative to White Plains, JFK, LaGuardia and Newark, instead of encouraging our neighboring states to reap the benefits of Connecticut's travelers and visitors.

Without question, a vibrant local airport sends the message that the area is business-friendly, adding employment positions, creating opportunities and strengthening the local economy. While I understand the challenging economic decisions you face this year, I encourage you to strengthen our long-term economic position and to enhance our quality of life with your support of Tweed.

Sincerely,



John L. Lahey

JL/gmf